[5th February 1924

Assessment.

Penal assessment in Coimbatore.

59 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that penal assessments were levied from several ryots including one S. K. Sundaram Ayyar of Sulur for alleged encroachments by them on certain lands, and that they protested against the collection of the said assessment and filed suits in the civil court against the District Collector and the Secretary of State;

(ii) whether the said assessment has been given up only this year; and if so, the reasons for the same; and

(iii) whether the Government would be prepared to make an inquiry into the matter and to pay adequate compensation in all reasonable cases?

A.—(i), (ii) & (iii) The Government have no information. A copy of the question will be communicated to the Collector who has got full powers to deal with the case.

Bench Courts.

Bench Courts in the Ramnad district.

60 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of the Bench Courts introduced in the Ramnad district, and the nature of their working; and

(*b*) if their working has been satisfactory whether the Government have any proposals to establish such courts in other parts of the district also?

A.—(*a*) Twenty. The working of these courts is generally speaking satisfactory.

(*b*) A proposal to constitute a Bench of Magistrates for certain villages in the Tiruvadanai taluk has just been sanctioned. There are no other proposals now before the Government.

Cabinet.

Distribution of portfolios among Members of the Cabinet.

61 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the portfolios administered by the several Members of the Cabinet?

A.—The information is given on pages 1–2 of Volume XV—No. 1 of the Proceedings of this Council, dated 26th November 1923.

Civil Suit No. 527 of 1919.

The hon. Mr. Justice Coutts Trotter's judgment in C.S. No. 527 *of* 1919.

62 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether on Mr. Justice Coutts Trotter's judgment in C.S. No. 527 of 1919 delivered on 15th March 1921, the attention of the Madras Government